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Fifty-first session
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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1996/1 of 11 July 1996, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

"Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, 1/ in particular chapters 17, 33, 34, 38 and other related chapters, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 2/

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Ibid., annex I.

"Recalling also its resolution 50/110 of 20 December 1995 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which it endorsed, inter alia, Governing Council decision 18/31 on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities,

"Noting the successful conclusion of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which was held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995,

"Having considered the Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities 3/ and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, 4/ as well as the proposal of the United Nations Environment Programme on institutional arrangements and implementation of the Global Programme of Action and relevant recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

"1. Endorses the Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

"2. Stresses the need for States to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national and, as appropriate, the regional and international levels;

"3. Also stresses the need for States to take action for the formal endorsement by each competent international organization of those parts of the Global Programme of Action that are relevant to their mandates and to accord appropriate priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the work programme of each organization;

"4. Further stresses the need for States to take such action at the next meetings of the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the relevant bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as in other competent international and regional organizations within and outside the United Nations system;

3/ A/51/116, annex I, appendix II.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

"5. Further stresses the need for international cooperation, as outlined in sections IV.A and B of the Global Programme of Action, in capacity-building, technology transfer and cooperation, and the mobilization of financial resources, including support, in particular for developing countries, especially the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States, and to this end calls upon bilateral donors and international, regional and subregional financial institutions and mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility, and other competent development and financial institutions to:

"(a) Ensure that their programmes give appropriate priority for country-driven projects aimed at the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

"(b) Assist with capacity-building in the preparation and implementation of national programmes and in identifying ways and means of funding them;

"(c) Improve their coordination so as to enhance the delivery of financial and other support;

"6. Invites non-governmental organizations and major groups to initiate and strengthen their actions to facilitate and support the effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

"7. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare, for the consideration of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, specific proposals on:

"(a) The role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, including the relevant role of its Regional Seas Programme and Freshwater Unit;

"(b) Arrangements for secretariat support to the Global Programme of Action;

"(c) Modalities for periodic intergovernmental review of progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action;

"8. Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme, within its available resources, and with the aid of voluntary contributions from States for this purpose, to take expeditious action to provide for the establishment and implementation of the clearing-house mechanism referred to in the Global Programme of Action, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare and submit to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session specific proposals on, inter alia:

"(a) The establishment of an inter-organizational group to develop the basic design and structure of the clearing-house data directory and its linkages to information delivery mechanisms;

"(b) The means of linking the inter-organizational group to ongoing work within the United Nations system on the identification of and access to relevant databases and the comparability of data;

"(c) The outline of a pilot project on the development of the clearing-house's source category component on sewage, to be implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization;

"9. Calls upon States, in relation to the clearing-house mechanism, to take action in the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and programmes so as to ensure that these organizations and programmes take the lead in coordinating the development of the clearing-house mechanism with respect to the following source categories, which are listed in conjunction with the relevant organization(s) and/or programme(s) but not in order of priority:

"(a) Sewage - the World Health Organization;

"(b) Persistent organic pollutants - the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the International Programme on Chemical Safety and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety;

"(c) Heavy metals - the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

"(d) Radioactive substances - the International Atomic Energy Agency;

"(e) Nutrients and sediment mobilization - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

"(f) Oils (hydrocarbons) and litter - the International Maritime Organization;

"(g) Physical alterations, including habitat modification and destruction of areas of concern - the United Nations Environment Programme;

"10. Decides to determine, at its special session to be held in June 1997 in accordance with its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, specific arrangements for integrating the outcomes of periodic intergovernmental reviews, as envisaged in paragraph 7 (c) above, in the future work of the Commission on Sustainable Development related to the monitoring of the implementation of and follow-up to Agenda 21, in particular chapter 17."

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Agenda item 99 (b)

TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Romania, Sierra Leone and Thailand: draft resolution

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University 1/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the University, 2/

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with the United Nations Secretariat in the context of preparing for the third medium-term perspective,

Recognizing that the University is making a growing number of contributions as a global reservoir of ideas for the international community in general and

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1/ A/51/31.

2/ A/51/324.

the United Nations system in particular, and expecting that those contributions will increase in the course of the third medium-term perspective,

1. Welcomes the completion of the second medium-term perspective, 1990-1995, of the United Nations University and the ongoing work of formulating the third medium-term perspective for the period 1996-2001, being considered by the Council;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

3. Requests the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other bodies in the United Nations system;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve the interaction and communication between the University and other bodies in the United Nations system and to ensure the integration of the work of the University into all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 49/124 of 19 December 1994, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session;

5. Endorses the suggestions of the Secretary-General to promote participation of the University in the Administrative Committee on Coordination and requests him to take further steps towards that end;

6. Appeals to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations University, in particular to its Endowment Fund.

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Fifty-first session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 97 (f)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Costa Rica* and Colombia**: draft resolution

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994 and 50/117 A and 50/117 B, both of 20 December 1995, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/45 of 26 July 1996,

Expressing its solidarity with the people and countries that suffer as a result of natural disasters and expressing also the deepest sympathy to all victims of the natural disasters that have struck in various parts of the globe,

Emphasizing once again the urgent need for concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, the loss of human lives and the heavy physical and economic damage that occur as a result of natural disasters, in particular in developing countries, small island States and landlocked countries,

Commending those countries, national and local institutions, organizations and associations that have adopted policies, allocated resources and initiated

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

action programmes, including international assistance, for disaster reduction and, in this context, welcoming the participation of private companies and individuals,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; 1/

2. Reaffirms that disaster reduction is an integral part of and contributes to the achievement of sustainable development, through the protection, at the national and community levels, of such resources as human lives, human capacities, financial assets, natural assets, natural resources and the environment, means of production and infrastructure;

3. Calls upon Member States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to extend financial and technical support for Decade activities, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, 2/ in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and the Plan of Action contained therein 3/ into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

4. Commends all countries that have mobilized domestic resources for disaster reduction activities and facilitated the effective implementation of such activities, and encourages all countries concerned to continue in this direction;

5. Reaffirms the need to support the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action with particular regard to improving education and training in disaster reduction, including the creation of interdisciplinary and technical networking at all levels, for the purpose of capacity-building and human resources development in developing countries, in particular those that are prone to natural disasters, as well as least developed, small island and landlocked countries;

6. Stresses the need for synergy between the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 4/ and that of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action as they relate to natural disaster reduction;

1/ A/51/186-E/1996/80.

2/ See resolution 44/236, annex.

3/ A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

7. Underlines the need for the United Nations system to ensure the integration of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action into the coordinated approach taken to the follow-up to all recent major United Nations conferences and summit meetings and to the implementation of their respective plans of action;

8. Invites the Secretary-General, in particular, to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the Decade, an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early warning capacities by developing a concrete proposal for an effective international mechanism on early warning, to include the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade and the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action;

9. Calls on the Secretary-General to ensure adequate consideration and involvement of the International Framework of Action for the Decade in the evaluation and overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 5/ in 1997;

10. Reaffirms that the secretariat of the Decade will continue to serve as the substantive secretariat for the preparation of the closing event of the Decade, working with the full support of relevant bodies of the United Nations Secretariat and drawing on the contributions of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, other international organizations and Governments;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the availability of resources for the activities related to the preparation of the closing event of the Decade and to appeal for additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to review relationships and responsibilities for natural disaster reduction with respect to the future, and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, including concrete proposals for ensuring the distinct performance capability of the secretariat of the Decade, in order to bring the Decade to its successful conclusion by the year 1999;

13. Requests the secretariat of the Decade to convene, in its capacity as substantive secretariat of the closing event of the Decade, the first meeting of the preparatory committee for the closing event, not later than the special session of the General Assembly to review Agenda 21, and with due recognition of equitable regional representation.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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Agenda item 97 (c)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Costa Rica* and Colombia**: draft resolution

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 of 19 December 1994 and 50/111 of 20 December 1995 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and resolution 49/119 of 19 December 1994 on the International Day for Biological Diversity,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1/

Recalling also Agenda 21, 2/ particularly its chapter 15, on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

1/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Commission on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling further the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity, 3/

Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, respect for each country's intellectual property rights, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, in particular for the developing countries,

Emphasizing that the Convention is an instrument aimed at achieving sustainable development, and taking into account its three objectives,

Noting with satisfaction that most States Members of the United Nations and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and calling upon those States that are not parties to take appropriate action to that end,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Argentina to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties at Buenos Aires from 4 to 15 November 1996,

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention,

1. Welcomes the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Jakarta from 6 to 17 November 1995, as reflected in the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, 4/ submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 50/111, and takes note of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, which proposes a framework for global action;

2. Takes note of the results of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the secretariat of the Convention at Montreal from 2 to 6 September 1996, and of the work carried out at the first meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, held at Aarhus, Denmark from 22 to 26 July 1996;

3. Calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

4. Also calls upon the international community, including multilateral mechanisms and existing funds and programmes, to provide adequate and additional resources, in an expeditious manner, for activities related to the Convention on

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3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

4/ A/51/312, annex.

Biological Diversity, taking into account the three objectives of the Convention;

5. Welcomes the work being carried out under the Convention aimed at enhancing cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development, conventions related to biological diversity and other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance, and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its fourth meeting, to consider ways of promoting closer cooperation between the Conference of the Parties and the General Assembly with respect to aspects of sustainable development that are related to biological diversity;

6. Requests the Conference of the Parties to submit to the General Assembly at its special session in 1997, a report considering, inter alia, progress made and problems encountered, and the effectiveness of inter-agency arrangements established to follow-up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and suggesting, on the basis of experience gained under the Convention, ways of promoting effective and efficient support in the area of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system for the period after 1997;

7. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis, including at its fifty-second session, on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Costa Rica* and Colombia**: draft resolution

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/169 of 19 December 1991, 47/195 of 22 December 1992, 48/189 of 21 December 1993, 49/120 of 19 December 1994 and 50/115 of 20 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that most of the States Members of the United Nations and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1/ and inviting States that are not Parties to the Convention to take appropriate action to that end,

Noting that the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened from 8 to

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

1/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

19 July 1996 in Geneva, and that at that session the Conference of the Parties adopted a series of substantive decisions, 2/

Recalling that at its second session the Conference of the Parties took note of the Geneva Ministerial Declaration which commanded majority support among ministers and other heads of delegations attending the Conference,

Considering the important scientific contribution to the convention process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Programme, and considering also its second assessment report to be the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment now available of the scientific and technical information regarding global climate change,

Concerned that changes in climate may result in significant - and often adverse - impacts on many ecological systems and socio-economic sectors, including food supply and water resources, and on human health, and noting that in some cases the impacts are potentially irreversible, and that developing countries and small island developing States are typically more vulnerable to climate change,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change and, in particular, to the successful conclusion of the Berlin Mandate 3/ process at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Reiterating that a comprehensive approach should be adopted by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the Convention, including the full consideration of the particular situation of the developing countries as recognized by the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties at Kyoto from 1 to 12 December 1997, 4/

Noting that the relocation of the Convention secretariat to Bonn, Germany, is well under way, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Germany and the city of Bonn for the facilities and support they are providing to the secretariat,

Recalling its request to the Secretary-General, as put forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 9, to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference might need to convene in that period,

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2/ See FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

3/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

4/ FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1/decision 1/CP.2.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/115, 5/

1. Welcomes the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters that have been established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997; 6/

2. Also welcomes the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997; 7/

3. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 10, to review the arrangements mentioned in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 above towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report upon the results of that review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account evolving needs arising from the relocation to Bonn of the Convention secretariat;

4. Notes with appreciation contributions made to the extrabudgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, and maintained in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/195, and calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to also contribute generously to the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of its financial procedures, as well as to the trust funds envisaged for supplementary activities under the Convention; 8/

5. Urges Member States that are Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full for each of the years 1996 and 1997, in accordance with the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, 9/ the contributions required for the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" and to undertake thereat the consideration of the reviews requested in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 50/115.

5/ A/51/484.

6/ Ibid., paras. 14-18.

7/ Ibid., para. 9.

8/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 15/CP.1, annex I, and decision 18/CP.1.

9/ Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex II.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Costa Rica* and Colombia**: draft resolution

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/122 of 19 December 1994, 49/100 of 19 December 1994 and 50/116 of 20 December 1995, on or related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and reaffirming Commission on Sustainable Development decision 4/16 1/ on the review of the implementation of the programme of action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2/

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/16.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Reaffirming that, because development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that small island developing States will be constrained in terms of meeting such challenges and overcoming the obstacles to sustainable development without the active support and cooperation of the international community,

Stressing the need for greater attention to priority areas of the Programme of Action, particularly transport and communications, tourism, energy, science and technology, biodiversity resources and climate change and sea-level rise,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 3/ on action taken at the international, regional and national levels, inter alia, by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2/ and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Stresses the importance of maintaining the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and strengthen the level of staffing, structure and organization of the Unit, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122;

3. Welcomes the action that has been taken enabling the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

4. Notes with some concern the impact that may evolve from the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session related to programme support for small island developing countries, within the framework of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/122;

5. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to continue to implement fully all the commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provisions of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

6. Recognizes the importance of the technical assistance programme (SIDSTAP) and the information network for small island developing States (SIDSNET) in the overall implementation of the Programme of Action, takes note of the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing General Assembly resolution 49/122, and invites the United Nations Development

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3/ A/51/354.

Programme to implement fully all provisions both of the technical assistance programme and of the information network for small island developing States;

7. Takes note of the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development to following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and invites the Commission at its fifth session to continue its support and attention to the Programme of Action in respect of the preparations for the special session of the Assembly to be held in June 1997;

8. Welcomes with appreciation, the inclusion of the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States as part of the work programme of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development for 1996-1999, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to commence work as soon as possible on the development and compilation of the index, to be prepared by the Department in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations and experts as regards the index, and scheduled for 1997;

9. Requests the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, in its coordinating role, to formulate appropriate modalities for mobilizing resources for effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

10. Welcomes the report of the High-level Panel Meeting on Island Developing Countries, 4/ examined at the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

11. Decides to establish an informal open-ended working group within the existing Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 5/ with the membership of all States, including all relevant sectors in disaster reduction, with a view to ensuring full integration and participation of small island developing States in the mapping of a concerted strategy for disaster reduction into the twenty-first century;

12. Urges the international community to support small island developing States in their efforts to adapt to the sea-level rise that will be experienced as a result of the impact of greenhouse gases that have already been emitted into the atmosphere and in improving access to disaster and warning information in order to enhance the capability of small island developing States with respect to disaster management;

13. Calls upon the international community, and financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, within the framework of its operational strategy, to support commercial energy development in small island developing States based on environmentally sound renewable sources with demonstrated viability, to support improvement of the efficiency of existing

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4/ E/CN.17/1996/IDC/3-UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC.3.

5/ See resolution 44/236, annex.

technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources, and to assist with the financing of investments necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

14. Also calls upon the international community to support the efforts of, and to provide assistance to small island developing States as regards improving and acquiring the means of maritime transport and development of infrastructure in small island developing States, including airports and harbours, roads and telecommunications;

15. Welcomes action at the national and regional level by small island developing States, and invites all Governments, with the assistance of international and regional organizations, to continue to support and to provide information on all of their major activities under the Programme of Action so as to enable an adequate review of the aforementioned action taken at the national and regional level;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the plans, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States that have been implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as those that are under implementation and those that are envisaged for implementation within five years of the date of the report;

17. Decides that the report pertaining to the vulnerability index should be tabled for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, and that the Committee for Development Planning should table its views and recommendations on the report on the index, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council in 1997;

18. Also decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution.